

January 10, 2011

Miranda Keaster, Room 451
Secretary
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

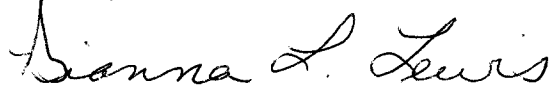
Dear Representative,

I was diagnosed with a mental illness, in 1995, after committing a tragic crime. However I suffered, untreated, from mental illness for about 3 years before that. If mental health services and education had been more accessible in my community at that time, this tragedy could have been prevented.

I am now a recipient of mental health services here at the Montana State Hospital. I can tell you that the treatment I have received here has changed my life. I now have skills to manage my mental illness and manage my very life.

Please do not cut mental health services in our state. The availability of mental health services, education and prevention to the mentally ill and their families saves money and lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianna L. Lewis".

Dianna L. Lewis
P.O. Box 300
Warm Springs, MT 59756